

**Committee Facilitators**

Elizabeth Robinson, Chair, Iowa Board of Parole  
Clarence Key, Executive Director, Iowa Board of Parole

**Committee Members**

Rep. Ako Abdul Samad, Legislator/Community Activist  
Dean Austin, Bureau Chief, Department of Public Health  
John Baldwin, Director, Department of Corrections  
Tom Becker, State Public Defender  
David Boyd, State Court Administrator  
Dr. Mary Chapman, Vice President Community & Workforce, DMACC  
Kevin Concannon, Director, Department of Human Services  
Syeta Glanton, Policy Liaison, Governor's Office  
Rep. Wayne Ford, Legislator/Community Activist  
Abraham Funchess, Administrator, Commission on Status of African Americans  
Judy Jeffrey, Director, Department of Education  
Dave Neil, Interim Director, Iowa Workforce Development  
Tom Newton, Director, Department of Public Health  
Paul Stageberg, Administrator, Criminal Juvenile Justice Planning

**Committee Secretary**

Karen White, Iowa Board of Parole

## **Introduction**

On May 21, 2007, Governor Culver created a committee of community activists, Department Directors and legislators to look at the 2001 Task Force report on African Americans in Prison to determine whether additional or more aggressive initiatives should be recommended. Governor Culver directed the committee to assess cost to the respective projects. The Governor requested the committee to submit a final report by August 15, 2007 to be considered in his 2009 budget recommendations. Enclosed are the final recommendations and budget requests from the Governor's Committee on Overrepresentation of African Americans in Prison.

The 2001 report was the result of a Task Force created by Governor Vilsack. This Task Force focused its review on four categories: education, employment, health, and the criminal justice system. The final report can be found at <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/publications/TFFinalReport.pdf>.

## **Overrepresentation of African Americans in Iowa's Corrections System Recommendations/Budget Requests**

### **Education**

1. The State should increase its support for early childhood education. Children from age's birth – 4 years of age are falling between the cracks due to unregulated environments. In addition to state programs, private/in-home early childhood programs should be certified and monitored. Below is a budget request of an additional \$4.3 million to assist the Department of Human Services with regulating private/in-home childcare providers that render services for children between birth and 4 years of age.

#### **a. Budget Request:**

- i. \$11,000 to DHS for website and SRS (MIS) changes
- ii. \$89,000 to DHS for 1 Typist Advance
- iii. \$625,000 to DHS for 5 FTE's for CC R&R training
- iv. \$3.1 million to DHS for Child Care Assistance
- v. \$500,00 to Board of Regents for the Urban Institute
  1. The Urban Institute under the direction of the Board of Regents shall maximize and build on existing resources and shall promote collaboration among the Regent universities, community colleges, private colleges, K-12, communities, and government agencies to assist minority students in academic, athletic, community, and employment areas. Research clearly shows that a higher percentage of black students than white students aren't graduating from our Regents' schools.
    - a. TOTAL = \$4.3 million

### **Employment**

2. Increase the quality of training and employment opportunities for offenders in Iowa Prisons. The focus should be on re-entry programs, in particular wrap-around programs focusing on life skills that would receive additional funding. Society has changed tremendously over the last ten years to a virtually internet-based workforce. Offenders need mandatory IT training which will help them to actively look for and acquire gainful employment. Below is a budget request for an additional \$3.12 million that will assist the Department of Corrections to reduce recidivism rates. The additional funding will provide for additional employees/counselors dedicated to the re-entry efforts, educational programs, IT training, and mentoring programs for offenders.

#### **a. Budget Request:**

- i. \$720,000 to DOC to add 12 FTE's for Re-Entry Programs
- ii. \$400,000 to DOC for Mentoring Program for two districts (Polk and Scott)
- iii. \$2 million to DOC for the Education Fund over the next three years to target vocational and technical job ready skills training.
  1. TOTAL = \$3.12 million

### **Health**

3. Address system capacity and accessibility to substance abuse and mental health treatment services. The Department of Public Health also should attempt to address the problems of

substance abuse and addiction and mental health disorders through prevention activities to avoid future incarceration. It is imperative to have effective and competent long-term substance abuse treatment to address the problem on the front end rather than at involvement with criminal justice or correctional system. Below is a budget request of an additional \$1 million that will assist the Department of Public Health to assist prevention and substance abuse treatment needs of non-offenders before a prison term results from criminal activity.

**a. Budget Request:**

- i. \$1 million to DPH for substance abuse treatment and prevention services to non-offenders.
  1. \$750,000—Substance Abuse Treatment to include extended care through use of existing network of treatment providers and culturally competent pilot project funded in FY'08.
  2. \$250,000—Targeted prevention programming for children and adolescents.
  3. TOTAL = \$1 million

## **Justice**

4. The State should increase its investment in community based correctional programming for medium risk ex-offenders. It is imperative for medium risk ex-offenders receive aftercare and more follow-up through the Department of Corrections and the Board of Parole. Additional aftercare and follow-up will lower the rate of recidivism for medium risk ex-offenders. Below is a budget request of an additional \$1.25 million that will assist the Department of Corrections and the Board of Parole reduce recidivism rates for medium risk ex-offenders.

**a. Budget Request:**

- i. \$1 million to DOC for Pilot Program in Polk, Blackhawk, and Scott counties for medium risk offenders.
- ii. \$100,000 to IBOP for 2 FTE's Clerk Specialist to work with Re-Entry workers for low/medium risk offenders.
- iii. \$150,000 to CJPJ for a pilot mentoring program for children of incarcerated parents.
  1. TOTAL = \$1.25 million